

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06704 290116Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1171

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6704

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR BUSHNELL - ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AODE, AFSP, APER
SUBJECT: MODE STAFF REDUCTIONS

REF: STATE 185441

1. AT LEAST IT CAN'T BE SAID, AFTER A YEAR OF BACK AND
FORTH, THAT THESE MATTERS HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH HASTILY
OR WITHOUT DUE CONSIDERATION.

2. MY RECOMMENDATION WAS NOT RPT NOT TO ELIMINATE THE
POSITION OF IAGS PROJECT DIRECTOR IN LIMA. IT WAS
TO ELIMINATE IAGS IN LIMA, ALL FOUR AMERICAN POSITIONS.
MY ARGUMENT WAS THAT ALTHOUGH IAGS NO DOUBT PERFORMS
USEFUL SERVICES, IT IS NOW AFTER MORE THAN A QUARTER OF
A CENTURY A MARGINAL ACTIVITY IN LATIN AMERICA, A
LUXURY WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD. IAGS HERE AND THE DEFENSE
MAPPING AGENCY IN WASHINGTON QUITE NATURALLY DISAGREE WITH
ME. IT WAS MY THOUGHT THAT A SERIOUS EFFORT TO REDUCE THE
U.S. PRESENCE AND EXPENDITURES IN LATIN AMERICA WOULD
INCLUDE A CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE OVERALL FUNCTIONS
OUR PEOPLE PERFORM, AND NOT JUST AN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY
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FOR ELIMINATION A SLOT HERE AND ANOTHER ONE THERE. IT
IS OF SOME INTEREST IN THIS RESPECT THAT WE CURRENTLY
HAVE AS MANY FULL-TIME AMERICAN OFFICERS IN LIMA WORKING
ON MAPPING AS WE DO ON THE CRITICAL NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

3. THE PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE THE IAGS PROJECT DIRECTOR'S
SLOT MAY HAVE ORIGINATED WITH THE LAST FS INSPECTION

REPORT ON THIS MISSION. THE INSPECTORS HAD THE NOT UNREASONABLE IDEA THAT A SINGLE OFFICER COULD BE ASSIGNED REGIONALLY IN A ROVING CAPACITY TO PERFORM THIS FUNCTION FOR ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE ANDEAN REGION. IN ANY EVENT, IF ONLY ONE POSITION IS TO BE REDUCED, WE SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE THE DECISION ON WHICH ONE IT IS TO BE TO IAGS.

4. AS FOR THE MAAG, ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE MAAG CHIEF, USCINCSO AND MYSELF, HAVE BEEN IN AGREEMENT FOR MONTHS ON THE PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE THE AIRFORCE NCO BILLET. USCINCSO SO INFORMED DOD ONCE AGAIN ON JUNE 15. THE REASON ESCAPATES ME FOR THIS CONTINUING QUIBBLE ABOUT WHICH MANNING LEVEL I CONCURRED IN WHEN.

5. WE STILL HAVE OUTSTANDING THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE THREE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE EMPLOYEES IN PERU COME UNDER MODE. IN MY JUDGMENT THIS WORK COULD EASILY BE TAKEN OVER BY A LOCAL UNIVERSITY ON A CONTRACT BASIS AT A CONSIDERABLE SAVING TO THE U.S.G.
SHLAUDEMAN

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